

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06014 110954Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2208

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6014

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV KS US

SUBJ: KIM DONG-JO

REF: STATE 173846

1. BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, CHARGE HAD MEETING WITH VICE MINISTER RHIE MUN YONG ON SEPARATE SUBJECT (SEOUL 5995). DURING THAT MEETING, CHARGE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REEMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ROKG AND U.S. CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE ACTS THAT CONGRESS IS ABOUT TO CONSIDER. CHARGE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF PERCEIVED NON-COOPERATION ON CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS ON THESE BILLS. THE VICE MINISTER SHARED THIS CONCERN BUT POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO WAS NOW A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND, THEREFORE, NO CONTACT HAD BEEN MAINTAINED WITH HIM ON THE ROKG OFFER TO JAWORSKI.

2. AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTEL, CHARGE CONTACTED VICE MINISTER AGAIN REQUESTING THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN BY ROKG TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INFORMING CONGRESS THAT AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO'S OFFER WAS STILL VALID AND THAT DOOR WAS NOT CLOSED TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. VICE MINISTER RESPONDED THE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06014 110954Z

SAME AS HE HAD IN THE MORNING; NAMELY, THAT KIM DONG JO WAS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND THAT NO CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE OR IS PLANNED WITH HIM ON THIS MATTER. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THIS FACT HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE RELAYING THE MESSAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, CHARGE REQUESTED STATION

CHIEF TO PASS SUBSTANCE TO KCIA DIRECTOR. THERE CAN
BE NO DOUBT HERE IN SEOUL OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE
POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE PERCEIVED NON-COOPERATION ON THE
COMPENSATORY MEASURES, INCLUDING FMS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY
AND ON ALL APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS MADE THESE POINTS TO

ROKG OFFICIALS IN MOFA, MND AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

4. COMMENT: DURING THE AFTERNOON CONVERSATION, VICE
MINISTER SAID THAT KOREAN RADIO HAD JUST REPORTED THAT
BOTH SENATORS STENNIS AND BYRD HAD MADE SPEECHES ON THE
FLOOR OF THE SENATE PROPOSING TROOP WITHDRAWAL.
UNDOUBTEDLY, ROKG'S PERCEPTION OF CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION
IS VERY CLOUDED. IT MUST BE VERY AMBIVALENT TOWARD THE
POSSIBILITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DENIAL OF COMPENSATORY
MEASURES, SINCE IT OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT SUCH ACTION
AS WELL AS THE STATED OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL MIGHT
WELL RESULT IN A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION'S WITHDRAWAL
PLANS (OUR DISABUSE OF THIS HOPE NOTWITHSTANDING).
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